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APRIL 2008

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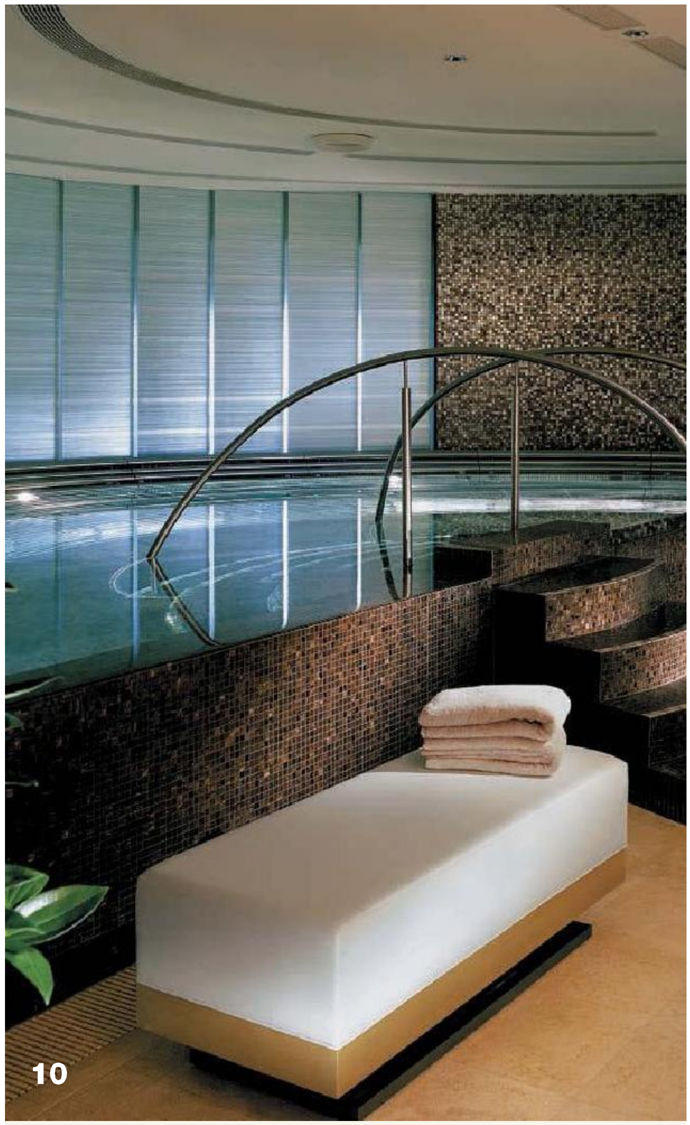

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TRENDS, FASHION & INSPIRATION







THE BASICS



FEATURES

on the cover:
Four Seasons Hotel Hong Kong

PHOTOGRAPHY: FOUR SEASONS HOTELS AND MICHAEL WILSON

Applause, applause

The staff here at Hotel Design and its sister publications, Hotel & Motel Management, Luxury Hotelier and The Hotel Times, are basking in the glow of a highly successful showing at HotelWorld, our parent company s inaugural operations and design conference and tradeshow. It was held in Las Vegas this past February in conjunction with International Hospitality Week. Thousands of attendees perused the latest in hospitality products and services and sat in on roundtable discussions headed by experts in all areas of hotel design, operations and management.

For me, the best part of the show was the awards ceremony, which brought together close to 200 industry professionals for an evening of celebration and comradeship with just a bit of competition thrown in for fun.

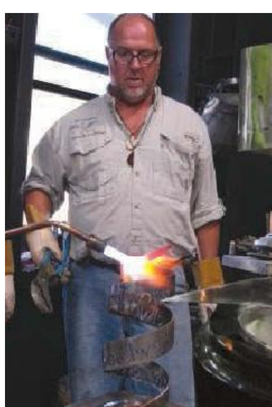
It was hard to tell if the design winners were more excited about being recognized for their great work or snagging the award itself, commissioned by artist Dale Evers. Throw out any tired notion you may have of awards those bland plaques and trophies that typically end up stuffed in a drawer or deposited high on a dusty shelf. These hefty pieces of sculptural art created from hand-blown glass and undulating stainless steel ribbons will proudly be displayed front and center in offices or lobbies. You ll hear more about Evers and his work—which encompasses art lighting, fountain designs, entry gates and garden art in a future issue.

I get great satisfaction out of seeing hard-working, talented designers recognized in our pages and in networking forums like HotelWorld. To be able to work with an artist to create a unique gift for these designers is a bonus.

Check out the design winners in this issue. If you missed out on this year s contest and want to participate next year, keep an eye out for a Call for Entries this fall.



Patricia Sheehan
Managing Editor
psheehan@questex.com





Dale Evers in his studio, creating the HotelWorld award.

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editorial staff

Managing Editor / Patricia Sheehan psheehan@questex.com
(216) 706-3753 FAX (216) 706-3711
Senior Editor / Stephanie Ricca sricca@questex.com
(216) 706-3791 FAX (216) 706-3711
Senior Editor / Elaine Simon esimon@questex.com
(216) 706-3782 FAX (216) 706-3711
Senior Editor / Stacey Mieyal Higgins shiggins@questex.com
(216) 706-3783 FAX (216) 706-3711
Associate Editor / Heather Gunter hgunter@questex.com
(216) 706-3792 FAX (216) 706-3711
Associate Editor / Jason Q. Freed jfreed@questex.com
(216) 706-3727 FAX (216) 706-3711
Associate Editor / Emily Hanna ehanna@questex.com
(216) 706-3728 FAX (216) 706-3711
Contributing Editors / Christine Blank, Cheryl Higley, Stephanie Skernivitz hmm@questex.com
Art Director / Rob Ghosh rghosh@questex.com
(216) 706-3788 FAX (216) 706-3711

advertising and sales staff

Group Publisher/Show Director / John McMahon jmcmahon@questex.com
(212) 895-8243
Publisher / Matt Waddell mwaddell@questex.com
(773) 880-2240
Associate Publisher / Mary M. Malloy mmalloy@questex.com
(216) 706-3790 FAX (216) 706-3711
Southeast / Brian Levine blevine@questex.com
(212) 895-8285 FAX (212) 895-8210
West / Jason Wallace jwallace@questex.com
(801) 499-9999 FAX (801) 315-4137

business development

Director / Stacy Silver ssilver@questex.com
(954) 306-0747 FAX (954) 697-6265
Associate Director / J. Richard Casson rcasson@questex.com
(212) 895-8426 FAX (212) 895-8210

circulation, production

Assistant Production Director / Jamie Kleist jkleist@questex.com
(216) 279-8855 FAX (218) 279-8813
Director of Audience Development / Heidi Spangler hspangler@questex.com
(216) 706-3705 FAX (216) 706-3714

lists, reprints, directories

Directories / Brian Olesinski bolesinski@questex.com
(216) 706-3794 FAX (216) 706-3711
Reprints hoteldesign@reprintbuyer.com
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Hotel Design mission statement

Hotel Design celebrates the design excellence of hotels, resorts, lodges and destination spas. Vivid photography, creative layouts and descriptive writing help present to the reader a broad focus on the new styles and fashion trends emerging in furniture, fixtures and the lodging spaces that provide a foundation for creativity. Hotel Design aims to be the source of inspiration for the individuals who help make it happen.

Encore for a legend

I recently had the pleasure of touring the famed Plaza Hotel in New York City. I encourage all of you to visit this storied hotel if you have not yet done so.

The Plaza has undergone a $400-million, two-year, lobby-to-roof renovation and restoration. Designated a New York City Landmark in 1969, it also is the only New York City hotel to be designated as a National Historic Landmark.

The restoration of The Plaza Henry Janeway Hardenbergh s Beaux Arts masterpiece was overseen by an award-winning design team, including Gal Nauer Architects, Costas Kondylis and Partners, Walter B. Melvin Architects and Rani Ziss Architects.



Mary Malloy
Associate Publisher
mmalloy@questex.com

From the beginning of the tour in the grand foyer entrance/lobby which features the elegant Champagne Bar to the farewell at the legendary Palm Court, I was in awe. Each space was graced with the most luxurious finishes. Guestrooms and suites have been thoughtfully designed to meet the needs of today s most discerning and demanding travelers. Fabrics and furnishings are rich in texture and in color. Guest bathrooms each feature stunning 24-karat gold-plated sinks and fixtures and hand-crafted white marble surfaces.

Guests at The Plaza will enjoy amenities such as the Radu Physical Culture wellness area. If you are not familiar with Radu, he has trained celebrities such as Cindy Crawford, Matthew Broderick, Vanessa Williams and Mary Malloy (well, maybe not me!).

Another experience guests surely will enjoy is The Plaza s Vinotherapie at Caudalie Spa. (Vinotherapie is a therapy using grape-seed extracts which are said to aid the fight against aging and other signs of damage to the skin.) The Plaza will be the only location for a Caudalie Spa in the United States.

The Plaza restoration represents the best efforts to design with sensitivity to a property s history while anticipating and meeting the needs of today s sophisticated business and leisure travelers. It s hospitality design at its best.



PLAZA DELIGHTS: (clockwise from top): Mary Malloy visits with Shane Krige, g.m., The Plaza Hotel; a Plaza guestroom; detail of the legendary Palm Court; a guest bathroom.

Hilton revs up renovations

In 2006 Hilton Hotels & Resorts announced plans to reinvigorate the brand with the acquisition of Hilton International and more than $1 billion in physical improvements to the brand s more than 500 hotels worldwide.

Now, more than 50 multimillion-dollar hotel renovations are completed or underway, including enhancements to the Hilton Anatole, Dallas (pictured, right); the Hilton Buenos Aires; the Hilton Times Square in New York City; and the Hilton Oceanfront Resort on Hilton Head Island, S.C.

Hilton is collaborating with Bevis Design Associates and its principal, Paul Bevis, a Hilton alumnus whose recent projects include the Hilton Barcelona Diagonal Mar, Hilton Residences Bangalore in India and the Hilton Dresden in Germany.

Hilton and BDA used guest feedback to develop four fresh, contemporary guestroom designs for resorts, airport hotels and city center and leisure destination properties. The designs feature several sustainable material options and incorporate natural light.





Travelodge goes modular

Travelodge UK, an economy hotel chain, plans to build up to half of its new hotels using ready-made modules imported from China. The company predicts its strategy of building hotels using modified shipping containers will enable the chain to cut 10 percent from the cost of each build and improve construction speed by 25 percent.

The first hotel to incorporate the building method, with 120 rooms, is being completed in Uxbridge, outside of London. A 307-room hotel near Heathrow Airport in London is slated for completion by year end. Travelodge aims to use this method in half of the 40 hotels a year planned through 2020.

The modules are shipped with the bathrooms, plasterboard walls and electrical points in place. Once on site, windows are installed, the modules are furnished and the building exterior is cladded.

Calendar of industry events

Kitchen/Bath Industry Show & Conference
April 11 - April 13
Chicago
www.kbis.com

NeoCon World s Trade Fair
June 9 - June 11
Chicago
www.merchandisemart.com

HOTEC Design North America
June 12 - June 15
Braselton, Ga.
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Construction pipeline at record level

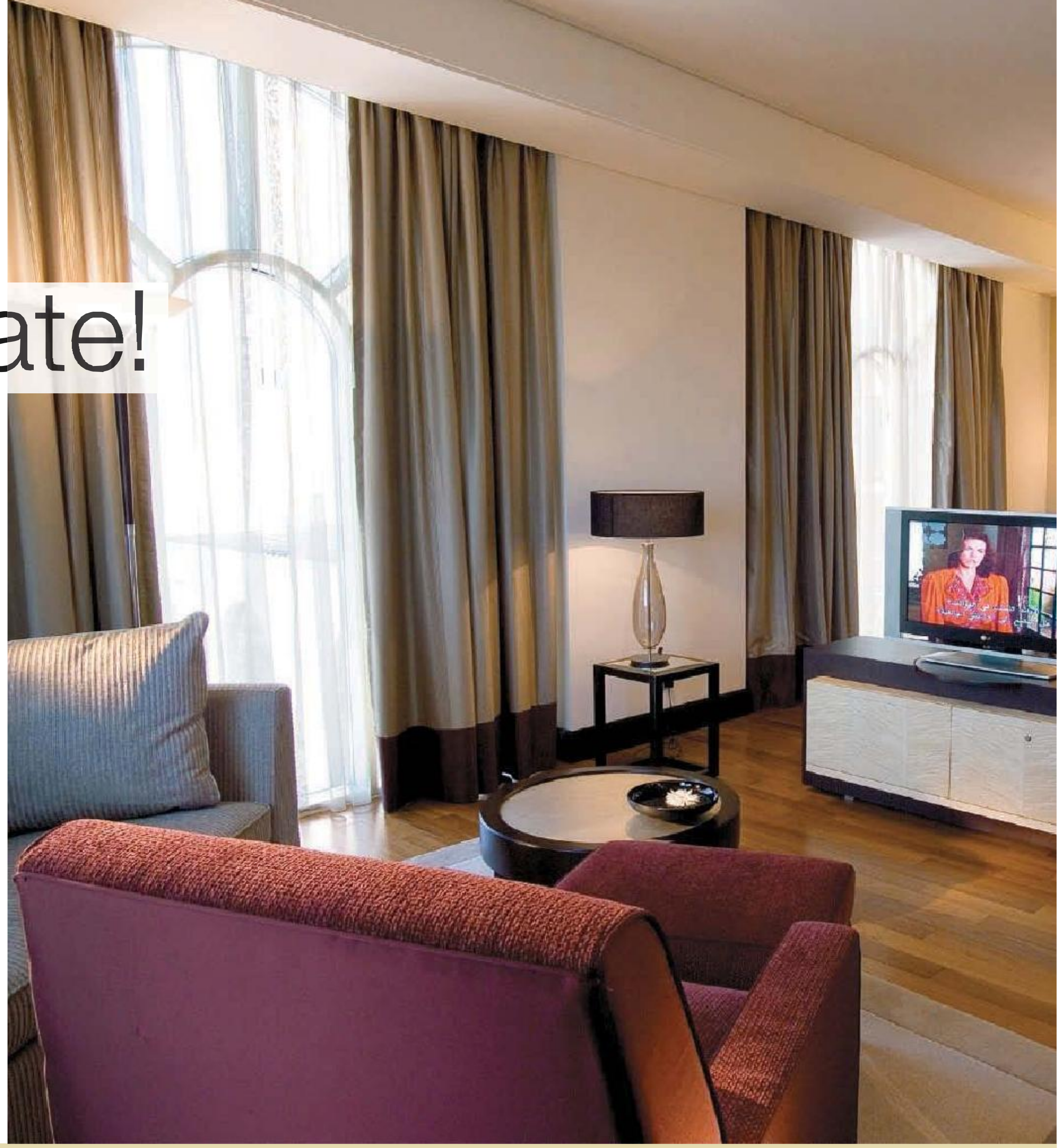
Lodging Econometrics reports that the U.S. hotel construction pipeline stood at 5,438 projects and 718,387 guestrooms at the end of 4Q 2007, breaking the 700,000 guestroom barrier for the first time.

It represents an impressive 36 percent year-over-year increase for both projects and guestrooms, says Patrick Ford, president, LE. Further, guestroom counts increased 10 percent quarter over quarter, the largest quarterly increase in almost three years.

Ford reports the development boom is led by projects in the upscale and mid-market sectors, which together make up 83 percent of the non-casino projects and 76 percent of the guestrooms. In Q4, the number of new project announcements reached a cyclical high of 951 projects comprising 116,590 rooms, a reflection of optimistic developers who anticipate the lending markets will have stabilized and approached normalcy when they are ready to seek financing, LE reports.



Celebrate!



HotelWorld s first Design Awards competition exceeded our expectations in terms of quality submissions and number of applicants. One after another, projects wowed us with their expressions of creativity, innovation and functionality in hospitality design. The tough job was narrowing the field down to those that judges felt represented the best of the best. Not an easy task.

That said, take a few moments to browse these pages for inspiration, recognition or perhaps confirmation that your own projects are right up there with these winners. If you didn t participate this year, make a note to do so in next year s competition. We ll send out a Call for Submissions this fall. Be there!

Design Awards Finalists

Note: winners are listed first, in italics

Best Overall Design
Kempinski Hotel, Dubai, United Arab Emirates (Wilson Associates)

Best Guestroom Design Luxury
The US Grant, San Diego (Deniece Duscheone/ S.K.I.N. Design)
Ritz-Carlton Sharq Village & Spa, Doha, Qatar (DiLeonardo International)
The Alexis Hotel, Seattle (Dawson Design Associates)
The Cove at Atlantis, Bahamas (Hirsch Bedner Associates)

Best Guestroom Design Full-Service
Vista Bahn Loft, Vail, Colo. (Burkett Design)
Holiday Inn @ The Campus, Manhattan, Kan. (Noble Hospitality)
Harbor View Inn, Santa Barbara, Calif. (Carl Ross Design)

Best Guestroom Design Limited-Service
Microtel Inns & Suites (US Franchise Systems)
Hampton Inn European Prototype (FRCH Design)
Hyatt Place Chicago/Lombard/ Oak Brook (Hyatt)

Best Lobby/Public Space Design Luxury
Sheraton Changsha Hotel, China (DiLeonardo International)
St. Regis Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (Hirsch Bedner Associates)
InterContinental Boston (BBG/BBGM)

Best Lobby/Public Space Design Full-Service
Hyatt Regency O Hare, Rosemont, Ill. (TVS Interiors)
Marriott Hotel Torrance, Calif. (HFS Concepts 4)
NYLO Plano at Legacy, Texas (NYLO Hotels)

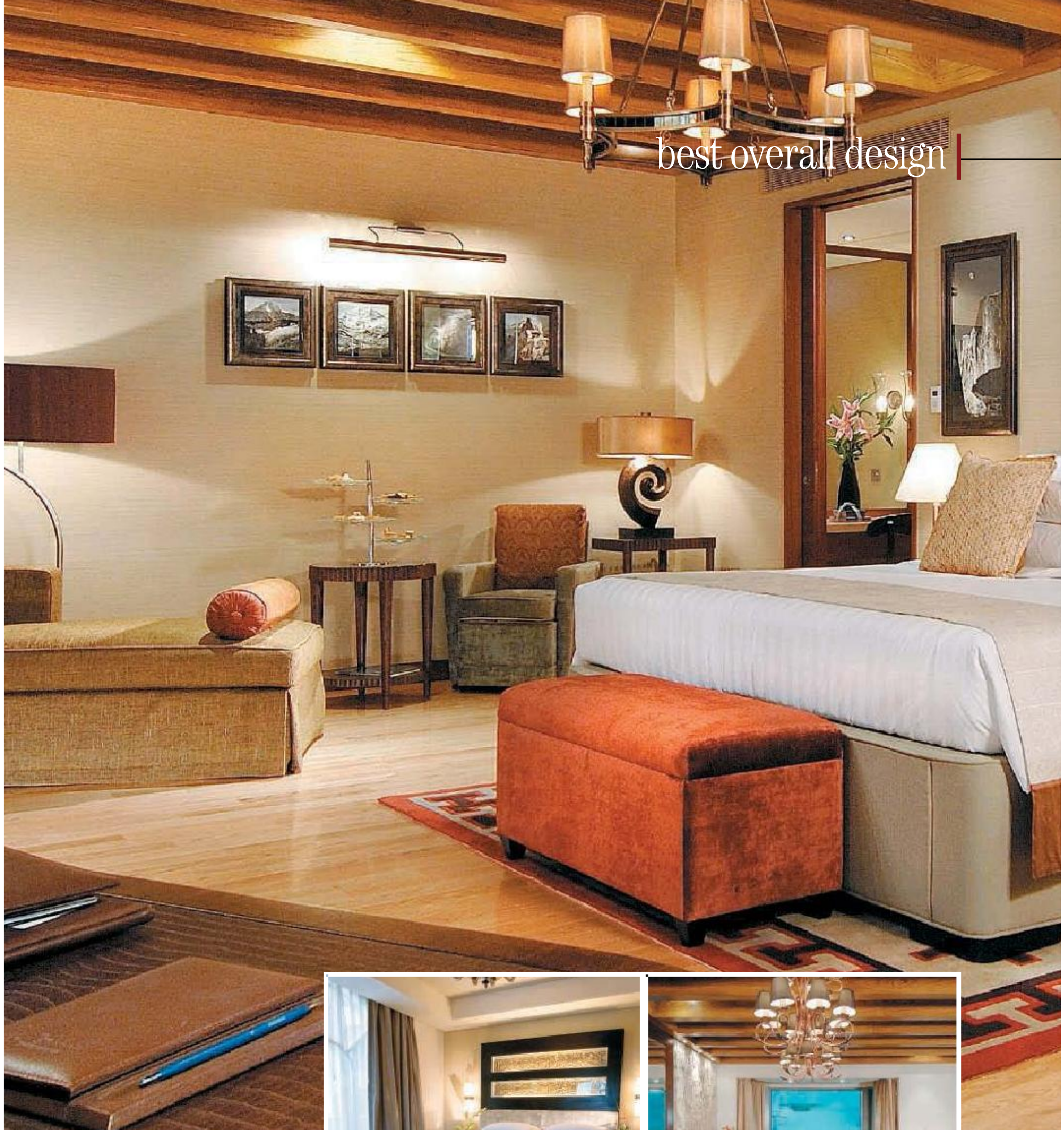
Best Lobby/Public Space Design Limited-Service
Hyatt Place Chicago/Lombard/ Oak Brook (Hyatt)
Residence Inn Burbank, Calif. (Leo A Daly)
Hampton Inn, Madison East, Wis. (FRCH Design)

Best Restaurant/Lounge Luxury
Wing Lei Restaurant at Wynn Macau (Hirsch Bedner Associates)
Four Seasons Hotel Hong Kong (Wilson Associates)
Ivy Hotel, San Diego (SB Architects, Powerstrip Studio)
UMU Japanese Restaurant at Dusit Hotel Nikko, Manila, Philippines (Dusit Hotel Nikko/Dusit Thani)

Best Restaurant/Lounge Full-Service
Graze at Taj Residency Hotel, Bangalore, India (HFS Concepts 4)
High Velocity at Marriott Marquis, Atlanta (TVS & TVS Interiors)
NYLO Plano at Legacy, Texas (NYLO Hotels)

Best Spa Design
Four Seasons Hotel Hong Kong (Wilson Associates)
Acqualina Resort & Spa, Sunny Isles Beach, Fla. (Jules Trump)
Heavenly Spa by Westin, The Westin Hilton Head Island Resort, S.C. (TVS & TVS Interiors)









KEMPINSKI HOTEL DUBAI

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

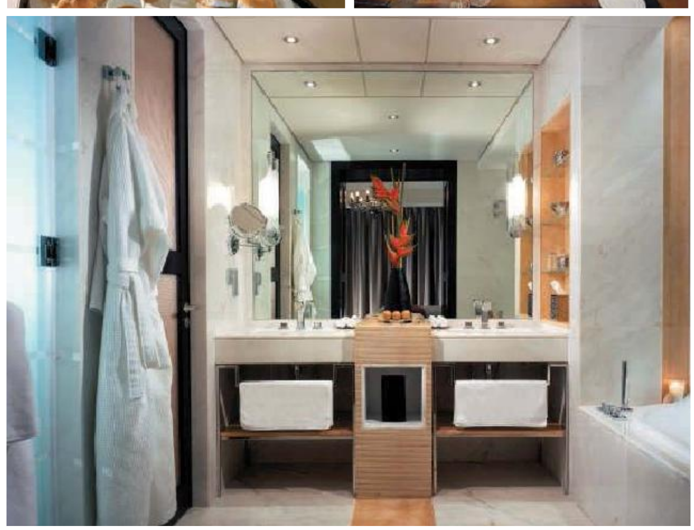
Interior Design: Wilson Associates   Photography: Kempinski Hotels and Michael Wilson

The five-star deluxe hotel is Kempinski s first property in Dubai and is set to be a destination in itself, attached as it is to the U.A.E. s first indor ski resort. This winning hotel also was featured in the February/March 07 issue of Hotel Design.

The Kempinski presented a challenge to the Singapore-based design team as the hotel was halfway into construction when Wilson Associates was brought on board. The team was afforded just seven months to complete concept and design development and translate those into construction documents.

The main idea behind the design was to engage the traveler s five senses. This translated into highly textured surfaces, water features and backlit panels, for example.

Room designs are largely contemporary with Arabic influences evident in artwork and artifacts. Ski chalets offer a modern interpretation of a European chalet. Stacked ledge stone was used throughout the living, dining and bedroom areas to create texture and warmth.









THE US GRANT

San Diego

Interior design: Deniece Duscheone/ S.K.I.N. Design and a team of international artists

Photography: Starwood Hotels & Resorts

The US Grant guestrooms were envisioned around a theme of Sleeping with Art in a historically chic hotel. The goal was to make each guest s stay at the hotel one-of-a-kind by incorporating original art that could not be replicated and that would incorporate the historic architecture of the Beaux Arts hotel.

The hotel s owners commissioned nine artists to create a vibrant collection of paintings, sculptures, murals and ironwork for the hotel s public and guest spaces that together create a subtle yet moving cultural experience for each visitor.

For example, the headboards in the guestrooms are drip paintings by French artist Yves Clement, each painted on property during the project.

Luxurious features common to each room and suite include nine-foot ceilings, crown molding and hand-loomed wool carpets with artist-designed patterns to reflect a Persian area rug. Custom-designed, Empire-style furnishings include marble credenzas with leather inlay doors, pillow-top beds with rich Italian linens and duvet covers that complement plush black robes tucked in customized wardrobes.

Volumes of historical information served as guidelines for weaving in 21st-century textiles, technology and design with turn-of-the-century character and nine decades of history. The budget: $56 million.


The Luxury of Light



VISTA BAHN LOFT

Vail, Colo.

Interior design: Burkett Design Photography: Fred J. Fuhrmeister

The concept that drove the design of this luxury suite was capturing and highlighting the unique activities surrounding the Vail area. It was essential that the space serve as a sanctuary for guests after a long day of skiing and other outdoor activities. Another design goal was to have the suite express modern design while retaining a cozy, comfortable vibe.

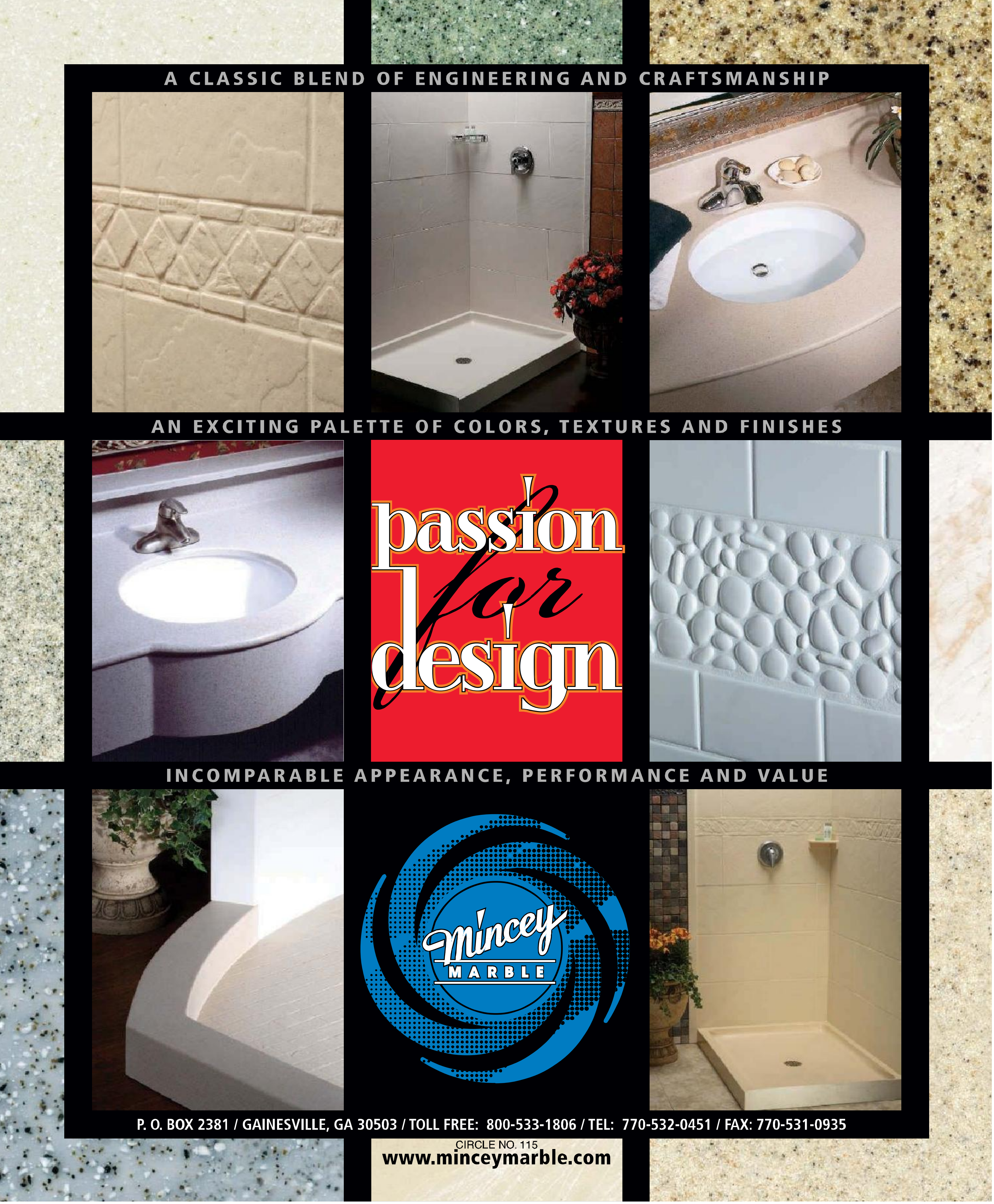
High-end amenities are incorporated into the suite and include an outdoor Jacuzzi, steam shower, fireplace, exercise equipment, full-service kitchen and an interface entertainment system. In addition, there are numerous custom-designed elements, including custom entry and restroom doors, a circular shower unit, pivot entertainment system and a distinctive spiral staircase.

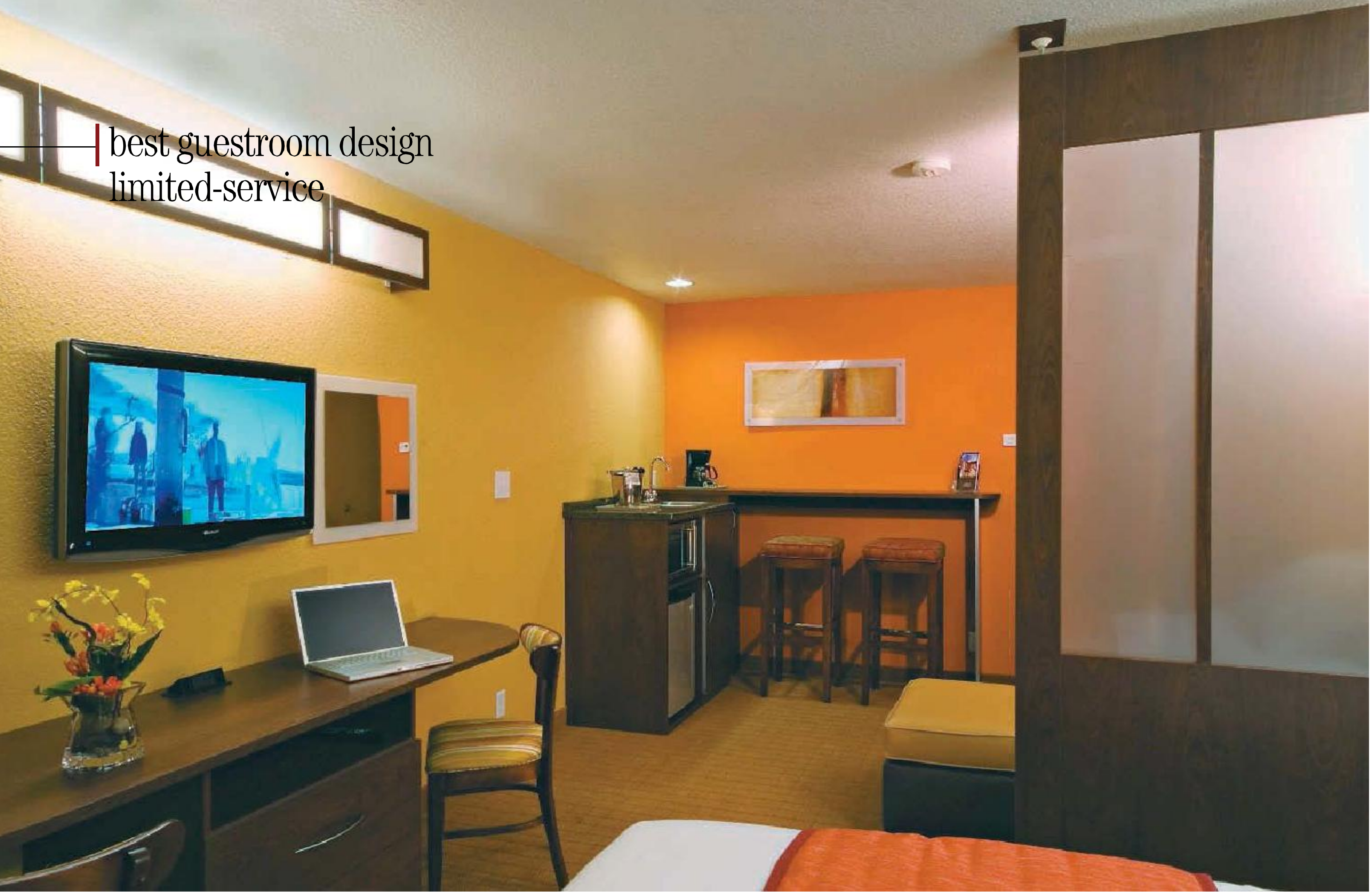
An advanced computer system allows the user to easily control everything from the lighting and music to television, room temperature, fireplace and blackout window shades.








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MICROTEL INNS & SUITES

Interior design: US Franchise Systems Photography: US Franchise Systems

The limited-service hotel chain recently rolled out a new hotel suite prototype. The design consists of four zones, with ample space to work, eat, sleep and relax, in a space-efficient layout that creates a contemporary and comfortable environment. It is available in five color-coordinated palettes to accommodate local market and owner preferences.

Microtel s new suite design was created as an outgrowth of a competition Microtel sponsored earlier this year with the Savannah College of Art and Design-Atlanta. Students competed to produce a guestroom redesign. With input from Microtel, franchisees and guests, various aspects of the final designs were incorporated to produce the new Microtel prototype.

Each of the five color-coordinated guestroom palettes presents a distinctive look using clean lines with graphic forms and neutral, yet energetic colors for a contemporary and inviting space. For example, the Breeze model combines harmonious colors from the seascape for a warm and relaxing environment; Nature uses natural elements that are both refreshing and tranquil; and Cappuccino integrates rich, deep colors to create a restful space.

Microtel s new suite design is described as functional and cost efficient to build, operate and maintain. The redesign came in on budget, and is said to cost just $800 more to build than the old suite.



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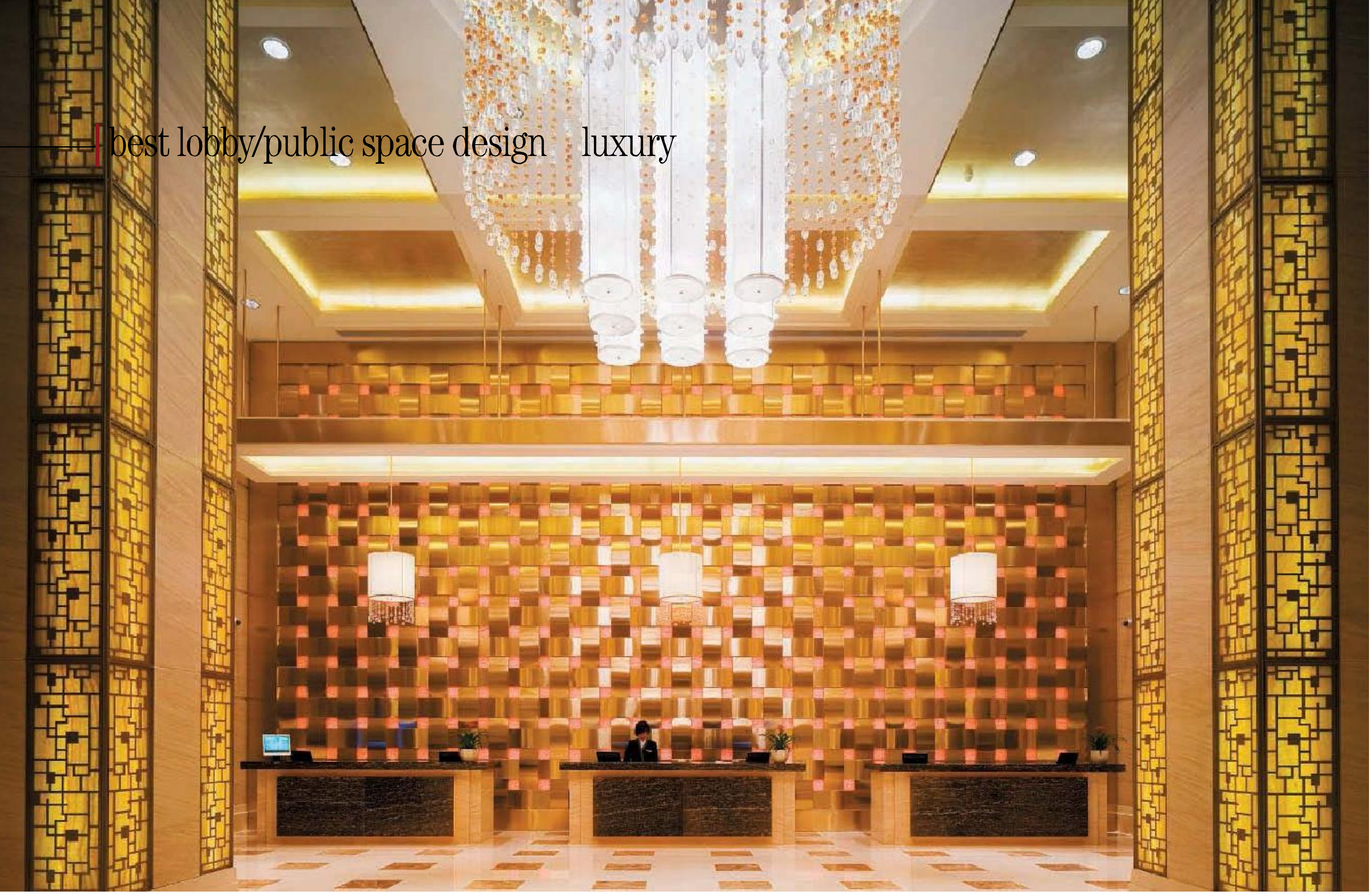
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CIRCLE NO. 118



SHERATON CHANGSHA HOTEL

Changsha, China

Interior design: DiLeonardo International Photography: Kerun Ip

The sleek, sophisticated Sheraton Changsha Hotel caught HOTEL DESIGN s attention a few months back, garnering a cover position in the January/February issue. The project is back for an encore with a win in our design competition, and rightly so. The hotel is an experience in international modern luxury. The DiLeonardo design team aimed to reference the contemporary architecture of the development while incorporating comfortable, overscaled and dramatic design elements.

The entry features a striking, custom-designed chandelier that serves as sculpture in the voluminous space. From there, one s eye is drawn to the large woven focal wall behind the front desk. Registration pods float in front of the wall that glows with a subtle blue tone, invoking the water elements found in the landscaping and in the reflecting pools in the main lobby.

DiLeonardo also created designs for meeting space, spa facilities and the Karaoke Club and WIne Bar. New materials such as liquid leather and hairy sheers are sure to be the talk of the club.





HYATT REGENCY O HARE

Chicago

Interior design: TVS & TVS Interiors Photography: Brian Gassel, Mark Ballogg, Bill Huber





Soaring atrium lobbies were the height of modern hotel architecture back in 1971, when the Hyatt Regency O Hare opened. The John Portman-designed hotel was one of several landmark properties for the Hyatt chain and is one of the few still owned by the corporation. Preserving the property was a priority for the hotel brand.

While the appeal of the hotel and its atrium hadn t faded, its energy level had. The challenge was to breathe new life back into the space without starting from scratch.

Highlights of the $60-million renovation include a new arrival court with glass canopy; a monumental glass staircase that carries guests into the heart of the atrium and a reconfigured atrium where guests can register and relax in an updated, sophisticated space. What was once an area guests simply passed through now offers fixed seating areas offering respite or a place to gather and socialize.

At the heart of the atrium is an imported, custom-blown glass chandelier and futuristic elevator cabs. Natural light now brightens the lobby and the space bustles with activity from revenue-generating venues like a health club, casual restaurant and media bar. The Johnson Studio designed the food-and-beverage outlets.

Finally, the indoor pool area was replaced with a striking high-tech conference facility. Similar finishes and materials throughout the atrium and conference area bring cohesiveness to the property.


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HYATT PLACE CHICAGO/LOMBARD/OAK BROOK

Chicago

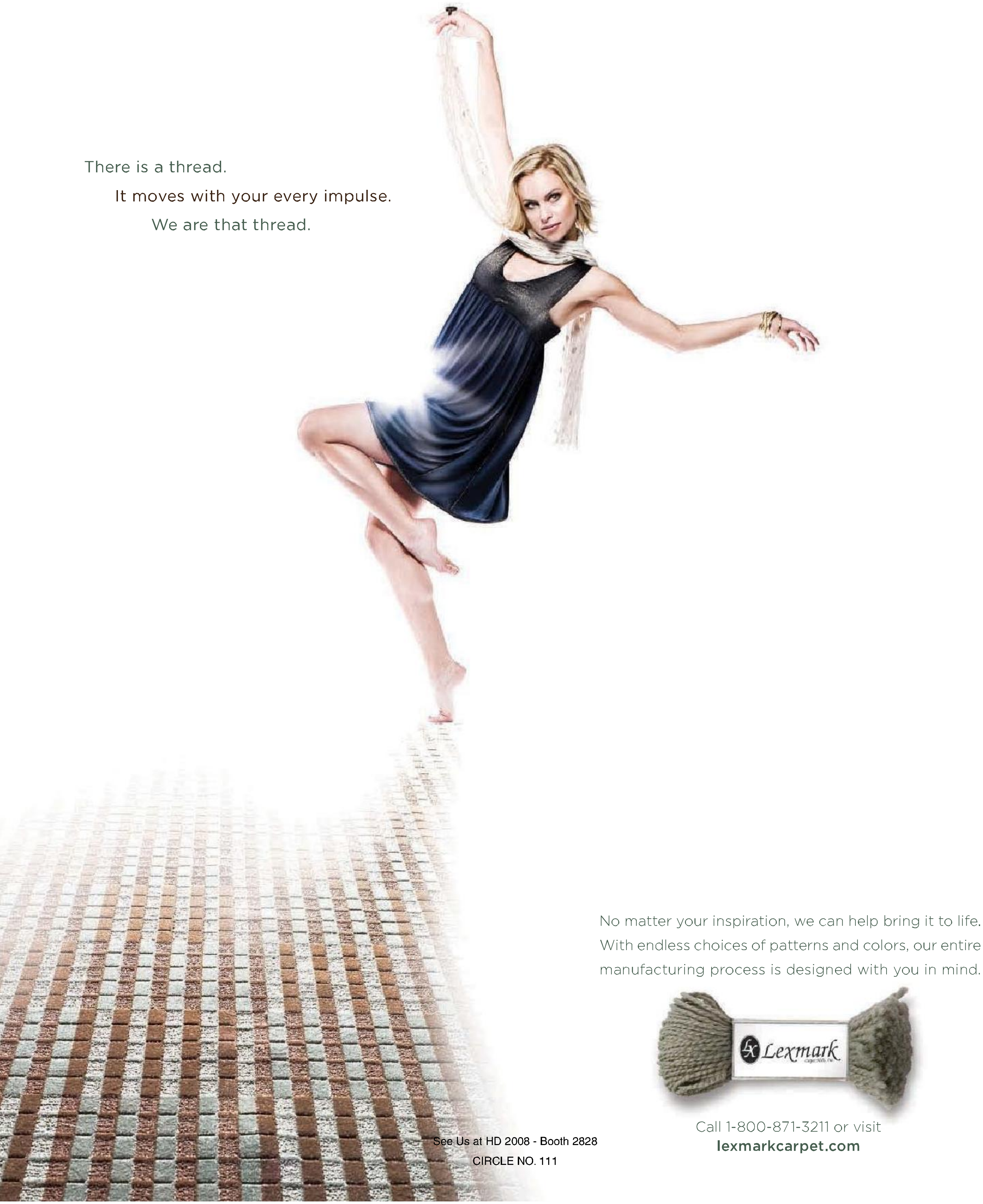
Interior design: Hyatt Place Photography: Bill Huber

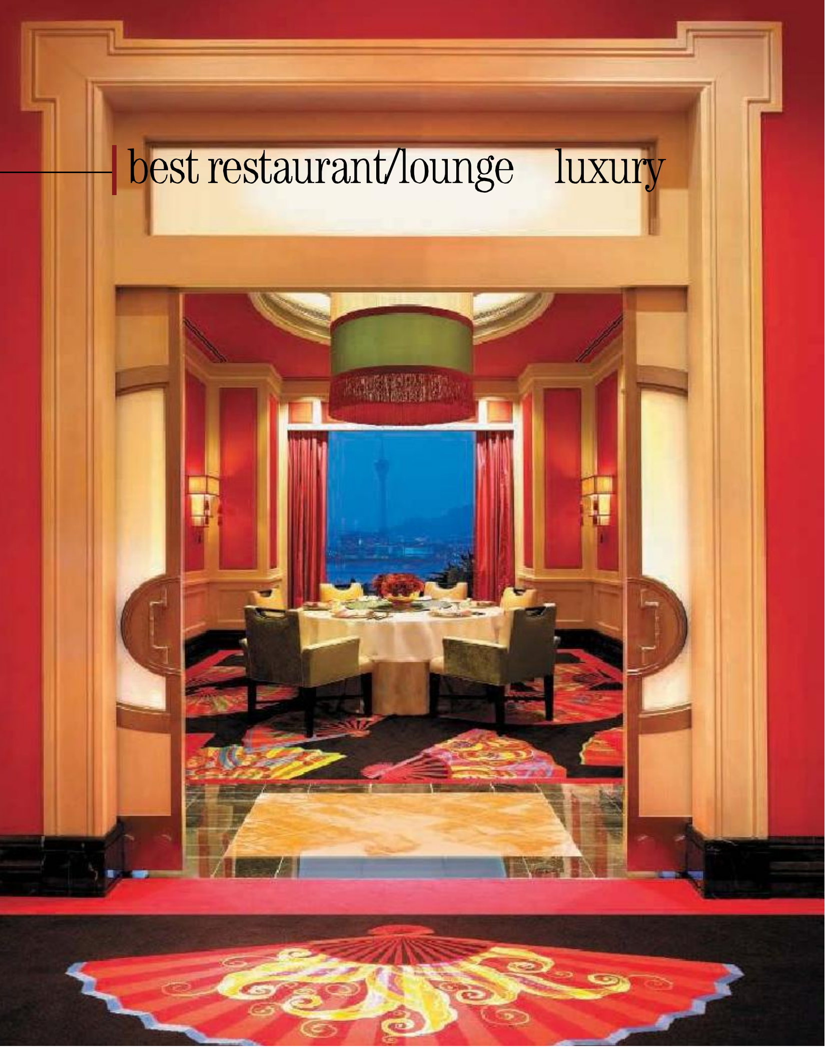
Global Hyatt Corp. acquired the AmeriSuites chain in 2005 with the goal of repositioning the brand to Hyatt Place, a new hotel concept designed to accommodate a 24/7, multi-tasking lifestyle.

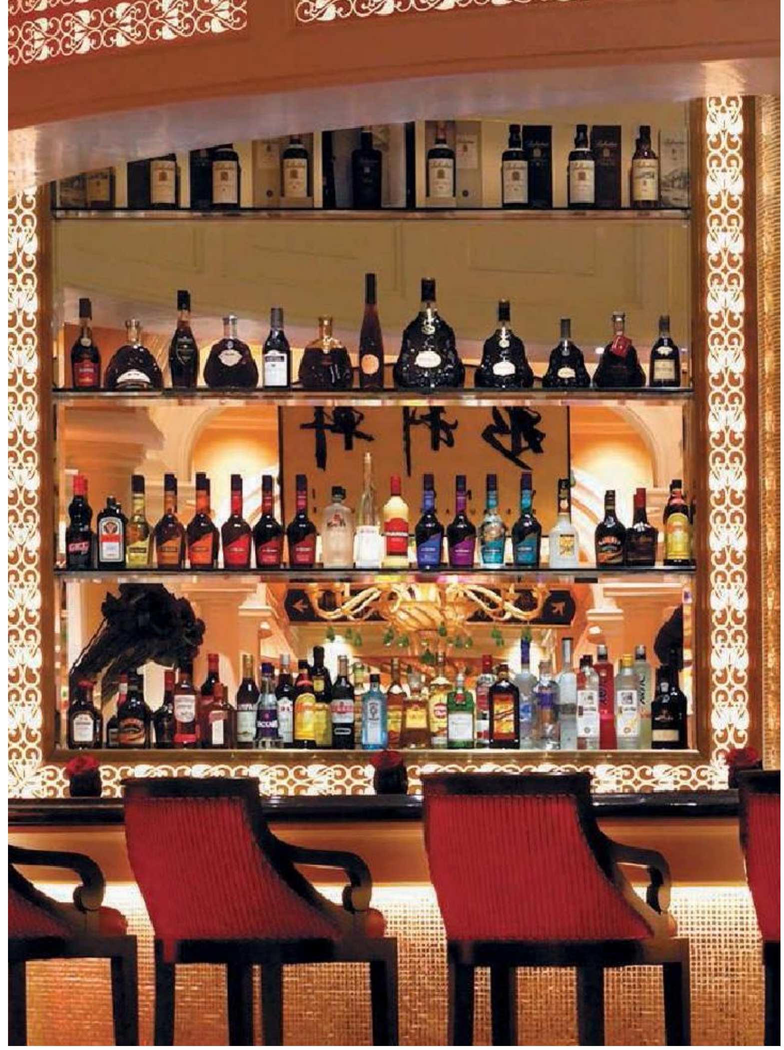
The public space was a key focus of the design. The result is the Gallery, a free-flowing area with a comfortable coffeehouse vibe. The Gallery offers offers complimentary Wi-Fi access and comprises multiple areas, including a wine and coffee bar; a grab- n-go area offering light fare and beverages; The Host Stand, or front desk, where hosts can assist guests with their needs; and The Guest Kitchen, offering complimentary continental breakfast as well as snacks.

Design elements include a central lighting system to control the Gallerys various moods throughout the day and maintain operating cost efficiencies. Natural, neutral colors create a sense of warmth. Vibrant accent colors are found in artwork, chair fabric and the focal walls. Chocolate brown flooring tile with graining similar to wood helps minimize sound from roller bag wheels, softening a typically cold material.

The result: The Gallery creates an inclusive environment where business and leisure travelers can both feel comfortable socializing, working or relaxing.


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WING LEI RESTAURANT AT THE WYNN MACAU

Macau

Interior design: HBA/Hirsch Bedner Associates Photography: Peter Mealin, Barbara Kraft

The HBA/Hirsch Bedner design team was challenged in this restaurant design to create a modern interpretation of Chinese style characteristics mixed with traditional and rich cultural references. Another challenge was not to make the space too themed or overdone.

The design team strived for contemporary, clean lines and modern versions of dragons, fans and lanterns. During the design process, concept planning and colors were reviewed by a notable Feng Shui Master, whose input was vital to the completion of the restaurant.

The formal procession of elements presented at the entrance to the restaurant is derived from a traditional moon-gate shape, reinterpreted in a white gesso finish that frames traditional red lacquer doors. Beyond the moon gate is an avant-garde floral wall sculpture.

The centerpiece of the restaurant is an iconic flying dragon composed of 80,000 crystals and invidual blown-glass elements. Throughout the dining areas, the contemporary carpet with its large-scale, custom-designed fan pattern exploding in color, sets the color palette for the rest of the interior.

A large fan under a custom silk and tassel pendant marks the entrance to each private dining room.

Drama and luxury set the stage for a memorable dining experience.









GRAZE AT TAJ RESIDENCY HOTEL

Bangalore, India

Interior design: HFS Concepts 4 Photography: Pallon Daruwalq

Graze was conceived as a dining establishment with European sophistication and Asian flair, while still reflecting the overall contemporary aesthetic evident in other public areas of the hotel.

In its previous incarnation, the space had no windows and a dark, cave-like feel. The new concept specified expanding the restaurant to the exterior window wall looking over the pool area to create an interior street feel for al fresco dining.

The energized, sophisticated space features an illuminated glass ceiling comprised of multiple suspended panels, polished wood floors and upholstered accent walls.

The display cooking area features a continental height bar with a floating top and fiery glass panels that emanate a suffuse glow to complement the activity of chefs.

In the main dining area, luxurious fabrics in shades of melon, sage and deep olives contrast with honey-toned woods, which, together with strategically placed art and wall sconces, create a pleasing ambiance.








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HEALTH SPA AT FOUR SEASONS HOTEL HONG KONG

Hong Kong

Interior design: Wilson Associates Photography: Four Seasons Hotels and Michael Wilson

In keeping with the identity of Four Seasons Hotels, the overall design language for the new Four Seasons Hotel Hong Kong conveys a distinctly international tone, interpreted within a contemporary building envelope.

The double-story Health Spa at the Four Seasons Hong Kong has been designed to relax and rejuvenate the mind, body and spirit. The intricately designed sanctuary features 18 sophisticated marble treatment rooms, all of which include their own private bathrooms and some with their own vitality pool and experience showers.

Two harbor-facing spa suites come with their own couple s vitality pool, relaxation day beds, a flatscreen LCD TV and a private bar of healthy snacks and herbal refreshments.

Guests also are able to choose from a selection of sensory enhancers within each suite that incorporate color- and sound-controlled light therapies into each spa treatment. The fully-equipped gym wraps along full height glazing, again taking maximum advantage of the harbor views. The views of the harbor dominate, without overwhelming the space.



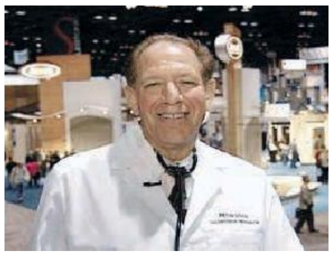



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CIRCLE NO. 114

The luxury hotel bathroom: great expectations

Having traveled close to 175,000 miles a year for the last 20 years, and being well versed in all segments of the bath industry, I am often asked what type of expectations I have for the bathroom of a luxury property.

Although my design tastes vary, I maintain there is no excuse for poor design or bad taste, even in a two-star hotel. That said, here s a list of what I and many of today s travelers expect in a luxury hotel bathroom: (See sources starting on page 52).



Peter Schor
Dynamic Results
pschor@dynamicresultsinc.com

■ **AIR MASSAGE BATHTUB**: 20 inches deep with three speed settings; chromatherapy (light/color); and a selection of bathing aromatherapy packets (fragrance/oils) to enhance the air massage tub experience.

■ **SEPARATE SHOWER**: Give me shower power. To me that means a thermostatic press balancing valve (dial your own temperature) with a shower panel with multiple shower device functions such as a great conventional head, hand shower and a selection of body spray heads.

■ Steam shower with wrinkle-free clothing option: A steam bath cleanses, invigorates, refreshes and is simply extraordinary. Make sure to include essential oils that I can add to the steam head orifice for the aromatherapy experience. Hit the wrinkle-free cycle button and it spruces up my clothing before an outing. I highly recommend providing a marketing piece in the guestroom describing how to use the tub/steam and the therapy oils. Many of the oils, robes and other goods can be sold in the gift shop or on the hotel Web site.

■ **COMMODE**: In a separate room or compartmentalized by a wall partition. The toilet model I prefer is 16 inches off the floor and is quiet and easy to flush.

■ **FAUCETRY** is the jewelry of the bath. I prefer widespread faucets with C spouts that reach high into the lavatory. The faucets should be a quarter-turn on/off ceramic disc valve and should match other finishes throughout the bath.

■ **LCD MIRRORED TV**: Just gotta have it while multi-tasking for news, weather and traffic reports.

■ **ELECTRIC FLOOR WARMING:** With the use of tile or other hard surface floor. It takes the chill off the air in the morning and reduces humidity in warmer climates.

■ **MAGNIFICATION MIRRORS WITH BUILT-IN LED LIGHT**: Excellent quality, distortion-free and the right height and model selection for different applications.

■ **EXCEPTIONAL LIGHTING**: Back-lit lighted mirrors for grooming tasks.

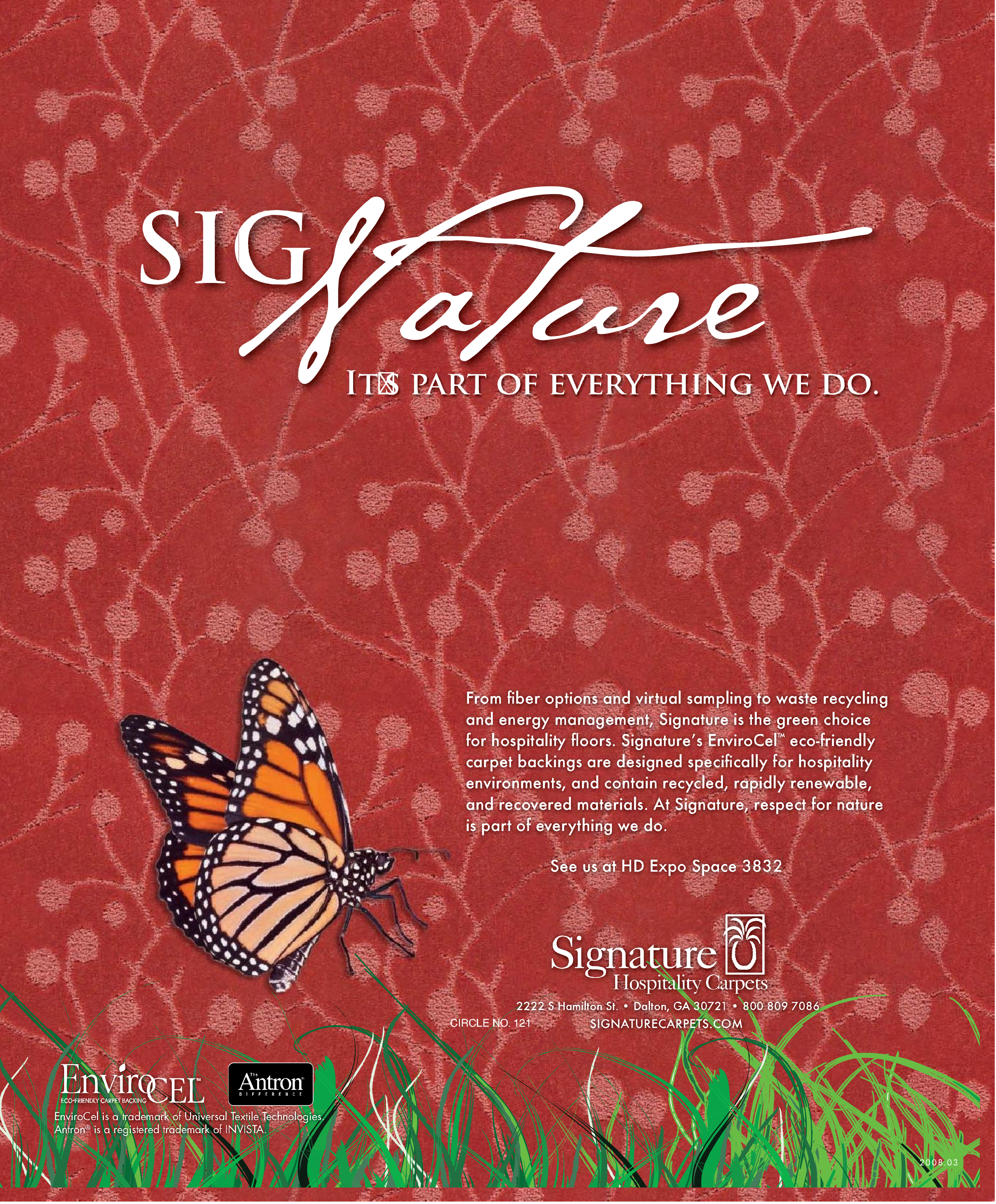
■ **NIGHT LIGHT**: The best application I ve experienced is in Wynn Las Vegas. A wall switch labeled night light turns on under the bathroom vanity.

■ **TOILETRIES**: Go with upscale brands or create a private label which can be sold in your gift shop or your hotel Web site at retail prices.

Peter Schor is a writer, lecturer, trainer and consultant.



SHOW BATH
The soaking tub in this luxurious bathroom at Le Touessrok Hotel, Mauritius, is the showpiece of the bath experience.
www.palazzobaths.com
CIRCLE 225


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FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

STANDING FREE

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mtiwhirlpools.com
CIRCLE 202

RUNNING WATERS

The Gallery tub is sculpture-designed to revitalize your body and open your mind. The tub is a work of art a clean, stylish oval of relaxation, ideal for quiet contemplation. It is available in a variety of sizes as a whirlpool bath, Pure Air bath or soaking bath.
jacuzzi.com
CIRCLE 203

CLIMB IN

The Toto NeoRest bath collection includes a programmable airbath with three waterfall fillers controlled by a deck-mounted color LCD touchpanel unit that confirms commands with an audio response. The RainShower tower features three body sprays and a handshower.
totousa.com
CIRCLE 204



By Christopher Holman
Holman & Associates

Entertainment technology enhances the in-room experience

The impact of consumer electronics products on hotel design is evident in the transition of hotel guestrooms from offering cathode ray tube televisions to thin panel displays. This change has, in some cases, liberated designers from the constraints of 40 years of furniture brand standards that included or mandated armoires.

Nearly as evident is the evolution of connectivity panels built into furniture to allow guests to connect CE devices to the guestroom display. MP3 players, laptops and other electronics are traveling extensively with business and leisure guests of every age.

With the rapid pace of technology change, it has become dizzying for hoteliers and designers to keep pace. Questions abound: What elements are necessary to migrate to high-definition TV? What is necessary to recreate a home theater experience? Is it important to incorporate connectivity panels, or will all content soon be transferable wirelessly? How do light and acoustics play a role in creating a guestroom that is a better sleeping environment? Most importantly, how does the definition of the guestroom experience impact design?

Many hoteliers have learned the easiest path to guest dissatisfaction with their TV system is to install a large screen HDTV in a guestroom with a video system that only has standard definition content. The display, while being a large piece of the design statement, is only one piece of a complete guest experience.

With the advent of hotel video-on-demand vendors such as SpectraVision, LodgeNet and OnCommand in the 1980s and 90s, the majority of guestrooms had technology that provided consumers with a pay-per-view movie experience that they couldn t get at home. Movies could be viewed on-demand in guestrooms that wouldn t be available to consumers in their homes for months. And even then, it would take a drive down to the video store.

But in the age of Netflix and similar services, now nearly the opposite it true: Movies are available online and nearly immediate. Consumers no longer see the hotel guestroom TV experience in the same light.

The room s the thing

In addition to content, the guestroom experience is beginning to fall behind the experience that consumers have at home. According to a survey by the Consumer Electronics Assn., 45 percent of all U.S. households are expected to own a home theater system by the end of 2009. While Hilton has begun to test its Hilton Sight and Sound Room concept, the vast majority of hotels have neither designed nor developed a cohesive hotel theater or enhanced audio strategy and deployment.

At a minimum, hoteliers need to address the audio playback in their guestrooms if only to increase the clarity of the dialogue, accurately reproduce movies and music, provide an even tonal balance and eliminate distortion and noise that emanates from current TV s built-in speakers. Addressing these issues will combine to put guests in a relaxed and restful mood so they may sleep better, while simultaneously providing a more enveloping experience. Designers need to account and plan for these auxiliary audio systems in the design of the guestroom.

We are quickly entering an age of information and content convergence. It is important, then, to consider the components that go into making the guest experience that is appropriate for meeting the needs of both the hotelier and the guest.

Christopher Holman heads up Holman & Associates, a hospitality consulting company. He can be reached at christopher@holmanandassociates.com.



PLUGGED IN: Technology issues are driving advances in hotel guestroom design. Pictured here is a Marriott guestroom. Seamless connectivity is key to guest satisfaction.


their tunes
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iPod charges overnight and wakes your guests with their favorite tunes.
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Lounge acts

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New to Andy Thornton s outdoor furniture catalog is the highly practical Brew collection, available in two predesignated sets for easy ordering. All items in the range have practical hardwood tops with aluminium frames.

andythornton.com

CIRCLE 200

LOUNGING ▼

Grupo Kettal s Venezia collection is reminiscent of classic collections, but with a contemporary design. This is the first Kettal collection in synthetic fiber with an organic, rounded design. It can be used to furnish traditional and modern environments.

kettalgroup.com

CIRCLE 201



Designing for the fitness-minded guest

Today s hotel and resort guest has more sophisticated tastes in fitness than his predecessor. Fitness complexes (and increasingly, spa treatment facilities) are now every bit as important in attracting new and returning business as meeting rooms, valet services and executive business centers. Travelers are far more likely to be members of a commercial health and fitness club than in years past.



Chris White
senior vice president
WTS International

At present, more than 43 million Americans are health club members, according to the International Health, Racquet and Sportsclub Association. As a result, guests have come to expect commercial-grade exercise environments when they travel. Those interested in using a hotel fitness center are not looking for a diversion but rather for a facility that will allow them to continue a long-standing personal exercise regime.

Consumers have developed a taste for many items and services that traditional hotel fitness centers have not offered in the past. Examples include built-in heart rate monitors on cardiovascular equipment, audio-visual entertainment in the equipment area and functional strength training equipment. In addition, urban hotels, much like resort properties, are seeing dramatic increases in demand for massage and other forms of spa treatments. The expectation of service levels and facility quality generally required to be successful in the hospitality industry now extends to include sophisticated fitness amenities. In fact, several of the major hotel brands have now developed branded fitness center standards and require compliance by both new properties and already established sites.

What is most important to the hotel guest seeking a workout? As stated, those most likely to use a fitness center while away from home   either on vacation or on

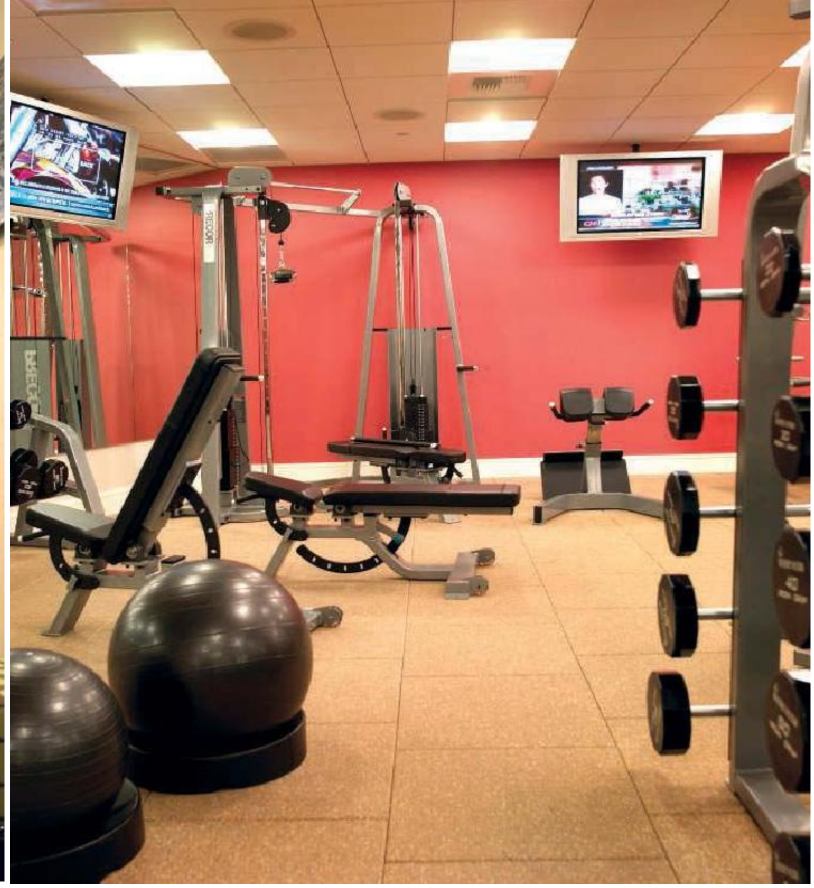


LET S GET PHYSICAL: Hotel guests today expect commercial-grade exercise equipment.


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CIRCLE NO. 106





FIRST-RATE FACILITIES: Hotel fitness center designers should consider providing a changing facility, particularly if the facility is accessible to non-guests. Shown here and right: a locker room and workout space at The Beverly Hilton hotel, Beverly HIlls, Calif.

a business trip are often experienced and committed exercisers. Furthermore, they hope merely to keep from losing hard-won gains in their physical fitness, and they care more about maintaining their exercise habit than making forward strides in their fitness while away from their home base.

Thus, while they don t expect to find as broad an array of equipment available as they have at their home club, the basics are truly important to them. This means first, that the equipment must be of commercial quality, not the economy models designed for light duty or home use.

Secondly, the backbone of most personal exercise programs is cardiovascular equipment; thus, cardio stations must be state of the art and numerous. Finally, guests are usually familiar with the proper use of equipment, so free weights, core and functional training equipment are equally critical.

Today s hotel facility skews significantly toward cardiovascular training equipment (e.g. treadmills, elliptical trainers, stair climbers, bikes and the like). While well-equipped centers of the recent past invested heavily in circuit weight training equipment, the space required for 10- or 12-machine circuits is too precious to be used in that manner; 60 percent or more of machinery offered should be cardio. Nowadays, these cardio stations are equipped with on-board television entertainment systems that give users news information and entertainment to make the time spent in cardiovascular exercise more rewarding. Whereas these features were once optional, such is no longer the case.

Strength training equipment tends more toward dumbbells, highly versatile functional training stations and stretching areas that feature core training equipment. Core training equipment appears as a collection of benign-looking balls, ropes, benches and mats. However, when correctly used, they contribute to stabilizing strength in the muscles of the midsection (or core) of the body which is basic to all kinds of daily life activity and is extremely important to today s exercising population. Not surprisingly, guests are delighted to see it and typically know how to use it.

The space required for exercise facilities varies widely but it is difficult to provide the needed equipment to serve a 200-300-room hotel in less than 800 to 1,000 square feet. Other design and equipment considerations for a guest-only, fitness-only facility are relatively few; nearby toilets, a source of drinking water, towel displays/drops, fruit or other snack options and an inventory of magazines are sufficient.

However, many hotels are opting to include diverse spa treatment services in their offerings, and these invariably require changing facilities (i.e. locker rooms). Still other properties are favorably positioned to offer access to their exercise facilities to non-guests through a membership program. This initiative also requires the availability of changing facilities.

Regardless of the scope of facilities and services, there is no doubt that today s traveler is more likely than ever to expect quality exercise facilities. That said, hotels and resorts don t have to create a venue of the size and scale of commercial health clubs in order to provide excellent equipment and a quality guest experience. If the basics for a good workout are present, guests can enjoy a great workout away from home without missing a beat in their exercise routine.

Chris White is senior vice president, WTS International, a worldwide spa and fitness consulting and management firm. He can be reached at cwhite@wtsinternational.com.









◀ SMOOTH CURVES
The Swirl table lamp from Nessen Lighting has a base made of hand-forged wrought iron that sits square. Its curves are subtle yet elegant. The white linen shade offers the perfect contrast in color.
nessenlighting.com
CIRCLE 208



Light it up

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CIRCLE 209

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medallionlighting.com
CIRCLE 210



TRENDLINES spa

BY PATRICIA SHEEHAN

You know the spa trend is here to stay when your 15-year-old hordes her babysitting bucks for routine mani/pedi treatments and rejuvenating facials.

Back in the day (say, mid- 80s), spa treatments for many women solely were a special occasion indulgence, for weddings, social galas and the like. And you *never* saw a man cross a spa threshold.

Fast-forward 20 years. The wellness landscape is teeming with these pampering palaces and the explosive growth in the industry shows no signs of abating.

Hotel spa profits in particular have risen dramatically, according to a recent report by PKF Hospitality Research. Its analysis found that a 9.7-percent increase in hotel spa revenues resulted in an 11.3-percent gain in spa department profits in 2006. Driving the increase in revenues was a 9.6-percent increase in the sale of popular spa services, such as massages, body scrubs/wraps and facials. Also contributing were revenue gains from fees, fitness lessons and retail sales.



Patricia Rotondo

Patricia Rotondo, senior v.p., VOA Associates, is busy with spa design work in Asia. The international spa client is very open to new ideas and designs, observes Rotondo. The domestic client is a bit more reserved. For example, color in spa design once was restricted to very soothing colors of greens and blues and neutrals. Today, rich accent colors of red and violet are seen.

When we design spas, we do so in harmony with the natural and cultural environments, using local resources, Rotondo says. The use of natural materials, in combination with color, texture, patterns, sensitive lighting, food and aromas, makes the spa an all-senses experience.

The International Spa Assn. recently published a list of spa trends. Here are a few:

Greening grows. As 76 percent of U.S. spas apply environmentally sustainable practices, the spa community s commitment to the environment is not a passing phase. On-site organic gardens; products made from locally grown fruits, vegetables, herbs and plants; mineral makeup; and green-building tactics are a few ways that spa professionals show their commitment to the earth.

High touch and high tech. In order for some people to take time out, they still need to be plugged in. Spas are incorporating technology such as Wi-Fi in relaxation rooms, cyber treatments that combine biofeedback technology with guidance from wellness professionals and light therapy to help those suffering from depression, seasonal affective disorder and insomnia.

The next generation of spa-goer. The teens are coming! Nearly four million of them have been to a spa where they learn how to handle stress, eat nutritiously and care for their skin. Spas offer programs and packages for teens and children. Millennials will never have to worry about a bad MySpace picture.

Hyatt Key West (Fla.) Resort & Spa

The new Jala Spa at Hyatt Key West Resort & Spa embraces a green aesthetic. The elements of sun, land and sea that define Key West also inspire the mood of Jalas design, created by Morrison Seifert Murphy. Earthy tones and textures define the serene lobby, with its bamboo flooring, stone mosaic feature wall and cane furnishings. Treatment rooms extend this organic feel with decors of bamboo veneer, Corian millwork and glass mosaic accent walls in shower and bath areas. Steam shower units grace each suite and the couples treatment suite offers a Kohler Sok infinity-edge soaking tub. Both rooms open onto their own outdoor patio area for private relaxation.







PHOTOGRAPHY: HYATT KEY WEST RESORT & SPA

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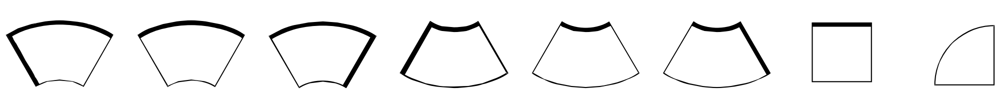


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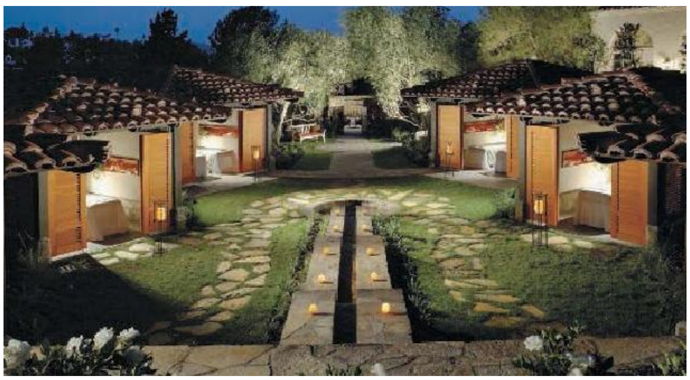
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CIRCLE NO. 117

Rancho Bernardo Inn, San Diego

Management of the Rancho Berndo Inn tapped a customer advisory board in planning the design of its new spa, part of the resort s recent $25-million enhancement and expansion project. The spa architect was Delawie, Wilkes, Rodriguez, with interiors by Brennan Beer Gorman Monk. The spa features remodeled indoor treatment areas, five new outdoor treatment casitas situated within a tranquil garden, as well as a new 2,500-square-foot saline spa pool and seven cabanas. The outdoor features were a direct response to the board s advice to find a way to use the resort s abundant outdoor space. Soothing water features, including an artisan fountain, add to the serene vibe.





PHOTOGRAPHY: RANCHO BERNARDO INN

PHOTOGRAPHY: PETER CHRISTIANSEN VALLI

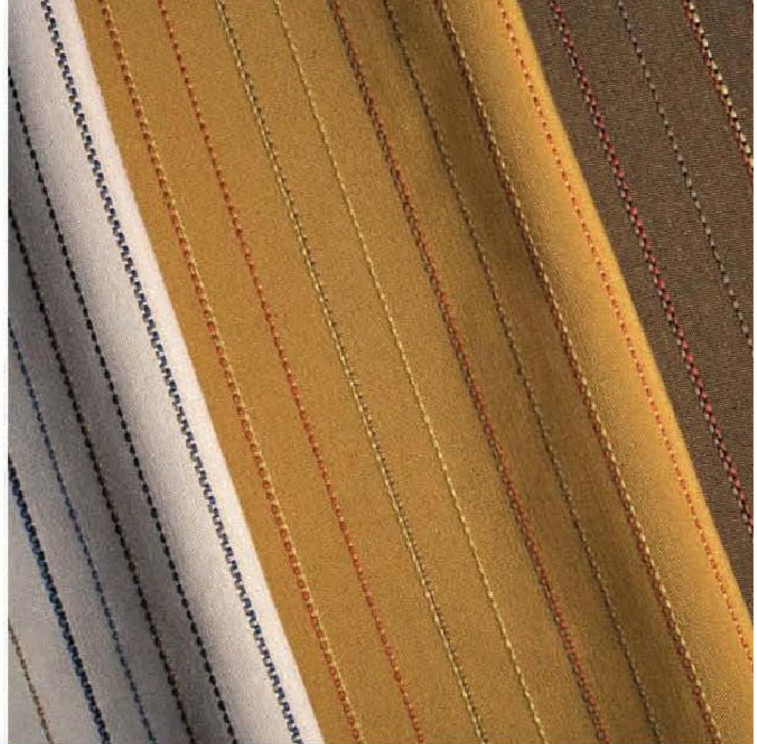






Ritz-Carlton Marina del Rey, Calif.

Designed by ForrestPerkins, The Spa at the Ritz-Carlton Marina del Rey features eight treatment rooms, two salons for mani/pedi services, steam rooms, a tranquil lounge, a spa retail shop and a new cardio and weight studio overlooking the waterfront pool and marina. Natural materials were paired with rich textures and soothing colors of water and sand, along with polished teak and mahogany to reflect the meeting of earth and water and to invoke a sense of drifting in an elegant yacht. The reception area features a custom marble mosaic rug depicting ocean waves set into the polished teak floor. A shimmering mother-of-pearl chandelier also references the waterfront site.



Light as a feather

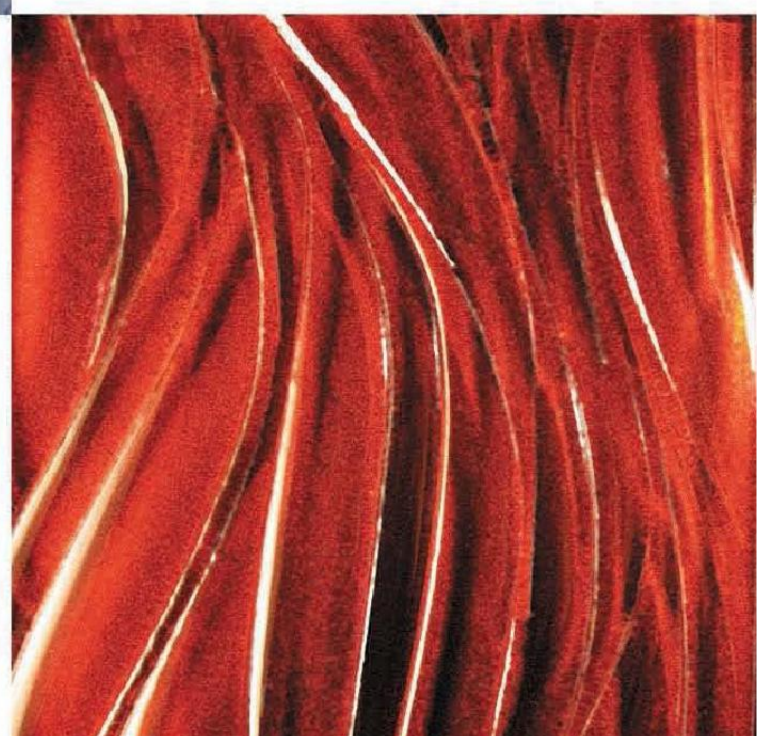
AIRY TEXTILES DRAW ATTENTION WITH EYE-CATCHING SHIMMER

IN THE WIND ▶
The Trevira sheer is a three-dimensional piece of fabric art that lends the magic of a fairy tale to any space. The lower half of the sheer has progressively larger embroidered leaves, each appearing to float on top of the fabric.
finefabric.com
CIRCLE 205



HIGH TRAFFIC, LOW IMPACT ▲
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qcollection.com
CIRCLE 206

GLITTERING FLAMES ▶
Gemstone colors glitter on Nathan Allan s original freeform textures. This line is a mixture of clear finish colors with frosting. The pearlescent sheen is best achieved with front lighting. Choose colors from inventory or provide a Pantone number of your choice.
nathanallan.com
CIRCLE 207



J/Brice to oversee Saudi Arabian projects

J/Brice Design International signed a deal with Saudi Arabia s royal family to oversee multiple luxury hotel projects throughout the Saudi kingdom including an 800,000-square-foot luxury development in adjoining Bahrain.

The invitation to work in the Saudi kingdom came directly from Sheikh Fahd Alireza who is one of the principal directors of The Rezayat Companies, a Saudi Arabian consortium with worldwide offices and more than 20,000 employees.

J/Brice s current work in Qatar, The Hotel Khalifa, is planned to be a five-star property with seven-star suites, which will be reserved for members of the royal family.



Jeff Ornstein, c.e.o. of J/Brice Design International with Sheikh Fahd Alireza



David Winkler

JN+A opens west coast branch

Jonathan Nehmer + Associates opened a west coast office to serve western projects, as well as a growing number of clients in Hawaii and the Pacific Rim, including China and India. The new office, located in Carlsbad, Calif., is led by David Winkler, vice president.

Winkler joins JN+A with more than 20 years of project management and engineering experience, including working for major hotel companies, as well as his own firm. His hospitality expertise includes new construction, conversions, renovations, historic properties and adaptive reuse.

SUPPLIER NEWS

INNVISION HOSPITALITY SUPPLY opened a new showroom and design center in Raleigh, N.C. Nicole Gould, interior designer, will



oversee the showroom, assisted by Jeremy Gould, national account manager and Tiffany Fine, design/project sales. (Pictured above, left to right: Jeremy Gould; Nicole Gould; Walter Jones, president; Tiffany Fine; and Chris Parker, c.o.o. and c.f.o.) Showroom sponsors include AC Furniture, Autrey Furniture, Cherokee Art, Dubois Wood Products, Fabtex, Indon, Jessamine, Medallion Lighting, Milliken, Thomasville Furniture and Trend Lighting.

SEALY promoted Joe Miller to director of contract sales. For the past three years, Miller was eastern regional sales manager for Sealy Contract.

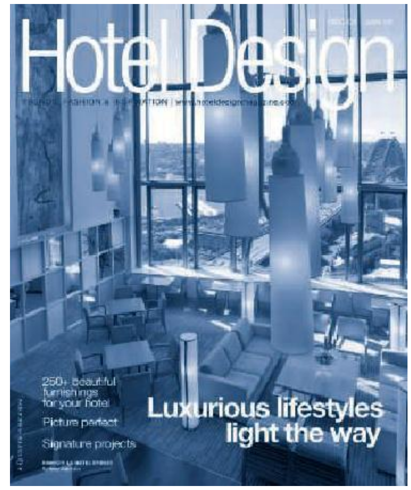
DECOLAV was named a winner at the 2008 Kitchen & Bath (KB) Awards, presented by *Woman s Day* magazine s *Kitchen & Baths*. DECOLAV s Casaya 5605 Series won the honor in the bath cabinets category.

OFCDESK kicked off the U.S. rollout of its interior design CAD (IDC) software product. The company claims its IDC is the first CAD software focused exclusively on commercial interior design. Product demonstrations will be scheduled for the east and west coast regions during the second and third quarters of this year.

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(fill in ONE only)

Architects/Designers

01 ◯ Interior Design Firm designing hotel, resort and spa properties
02 ◯ Architectural Firm designing hotel, resort and spa properties
03 ◯ Contractor/Builder/Developer building hotel, resort and spa properties
04 ◯ Purchasing Firm buying FF&E for hotel, resort and spa properties
05 ◯ Other (please specify) ______________________

Owner/Operators

06 ◯ Hotel ➡
07 ◯ Resort ➡
08 ◯ Lodge ➡

If a hotel, resort or lodge, indicate the number of rooms:
1 ◯ 300 Rooms or More
2 ◯ 100-299 Rooms
3 ◯ Under 100 Rooms

09 ◯ Destination Spa
13 ◯ Headquarters or Regional Office: Franchises, Chains, Referral/Management Organizations
14 ◯ Hotel Property/Real Estate Developers/ Independent Developers
20 ◯ Other (please specify) ______________________

30 ◯ **Trade, Supplier, Dealer, Distributor or Manufacturer's Rep**

50 ◯ **Other (please specify)**______________________

2. Which of the following best describes your title?
(fill in ONE only)

001 ◯ Owner/President/CEO
002 ◯ Partner
003 ◯ Project Director/Manager
004 ◯ Purchasing Director/Manager
005 ◯ Architectural Director
006 ◯ Sr. Design Director
007 ◯ Other VP/Director/Manager
008 ◯ Interior Designer/Architect/Engineer
009 ◯ Other Design Personnel (please specify) ______________________
010 ◯ Other Management Personnel (please specify) ______________________
020 ◯ Other (please specify) ______________________

3. Owner/Operators (Lodges, hotels, resorts, spas)

A. If more than one, how many properties do you own or operate? (please specify) ______________________

4. How many lodging projects have you worked on for hotels, resorts and spas in the last 24 months?

1 ◯ 25 or more
2 ◯ 10–24
3 ◯ 5–9
4 ◯ 1–4

5. Please indicate the number of employees at your firm's address, including yourself:

1 ◯ 25 or more
2 ◯ 10–24
3 ◯ 5–9
4 ◯ 1–4

6. Which of the following functions do you perform in the design/décor process?
(fill in ALL that apply)

1 ◯ Program Planning and Concept
2 ◯ Schematic Designer
3 ◯ Design Development
4 ◯ Architecture/Design/Development
5 ◯ Installation
6 ◯ Other (please specify) ______________________
89 ◯ None of the above

7. Your firm's total lodging project revenue for the last 12 months? (For architectural or interior design firms only):

1 ◯ More than $10 Million
2 ◯ $5M – $9.99 Million
3 ◯ $4M – $4.99 Million
4 ◯ $3M – $3.99 Million
5 ◯ $2M – $2.99 Million
6 ◯ $1M – $1.99 Million
7 ◯ Less than $1 Million

8. Type of ownership (for hotels and resorts only):

1 ◯ Chain
2 ◯ Franchise
3 ◯ Management Company
4 ◯ Independent
999 ◯ Other (please specify) ______________________

9. Which of the following product categories do you purchase, specify, approve or otherwise influence the purchase of?
(fill in ALL that apply)

21 ◯ Apparel
22 ◯ Architectural/Building Products (including electrical, plumbing and other products)
23 ◯ Art & Accessories (including flowers and plants)
24 ◯ Communication systems, services and equipment (including audio/visual)
25 ◯ Furniture, fixtures, equipment (FF&E)
26 ◯ Wall coverings
27 ◯ Fabrics
28 ◯ Lighting Products
29 ◯ Flooring (including stone, tile, carpeting)
30 ◯ Security Systems
31 ◯ Window Treatments
32 ◯ Other (please specify) ______________________
99 ◯ None of the above

For important free product/service information, circle the numbers that correspond to the ads you've seen in this issue.

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QUESTEX MEDIA

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Not all items are shown in photos

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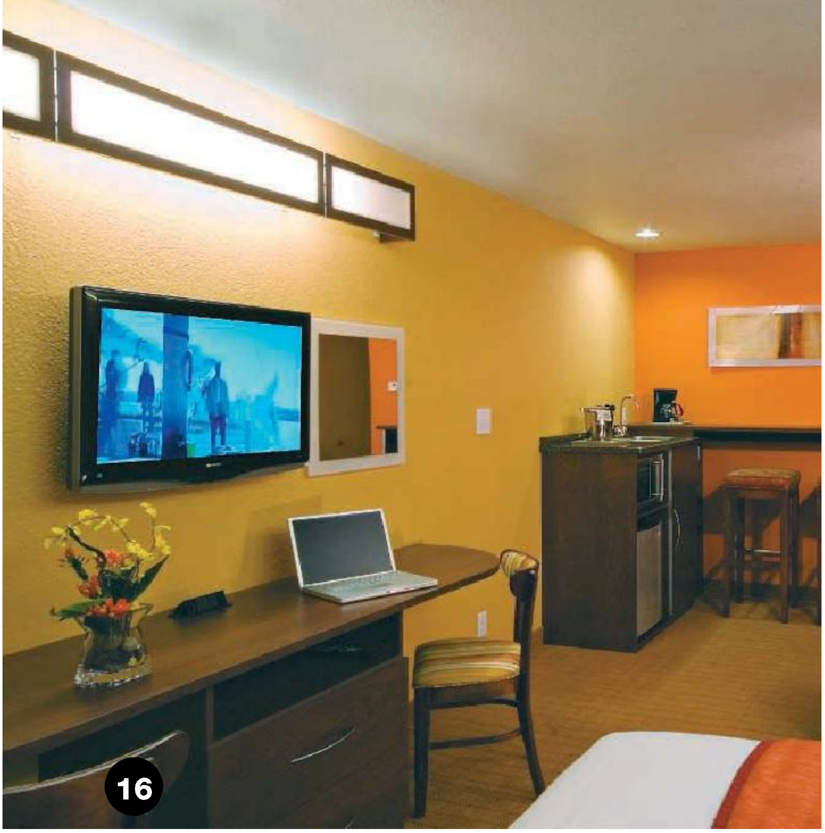
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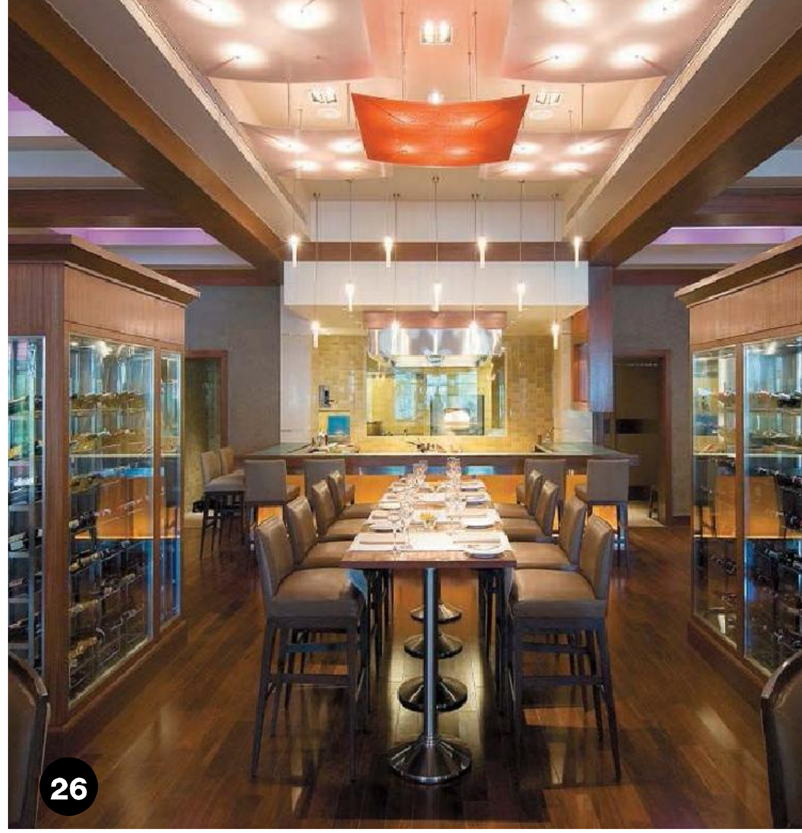
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Show us your stuff

DESIGN FIRMS: WE WANT YOUR PROJECTS!

If you have a completed hotel-design project that you would like considered for inclusion in the print or electronic versions of Hotel Design, follow these steps:

Each submission should include the following material:

No more than a two-page typed description of the property, including the property name, dates of construction, whether the project was new construction or renovation, a summary of the project s principal features including design intention, challenges, resources, budget and the project s owner. Other specs can be included as warranted.

- A minimum of seven (7) and maximum of 12 photographs of the property. The photographs must be burned onto a CD-ROM, and must be at least 8 inches by 10 inches in size and a minimum resolution of 300 dpi. The photographer s name and contact information must be included. Accepted formats are .jpg and .tif.
- A low-resolution print of the submitted photographs.
- A specific source list of all items and materials used in the project including contact information (website and/or address and phone number).
- The complete name of the design firm handling the project. Include a complete mailing address, e-mail address and phone number.
- A list of the project team s members, including titles and contact information. Please specify the primary contact on the team.
- A list of contributing professionals who worked on the project.

Submissions that focus on a specific area of a project (guestrooms or public space, for example) could receive preferential treatment.

Design firms that submit all of the requested information will receive first consideration. There is no deadline for submissions as Hotel Design s 2008 schedule includes plans for print and electronic versions throughout the year. All segments and classes of hotels will be considered for inclusion based on design inspiration.

EDITOR S TIP: To ensure accuracy, please consult with all contributing members or companies before submitting the project.

Packets should be shipped to:
Patricia Sheehan
Hotel Design
600 Superior Avenue, East
Suite 1100
Cleveland, OH 44114

For more information, call (216) 706-3753.

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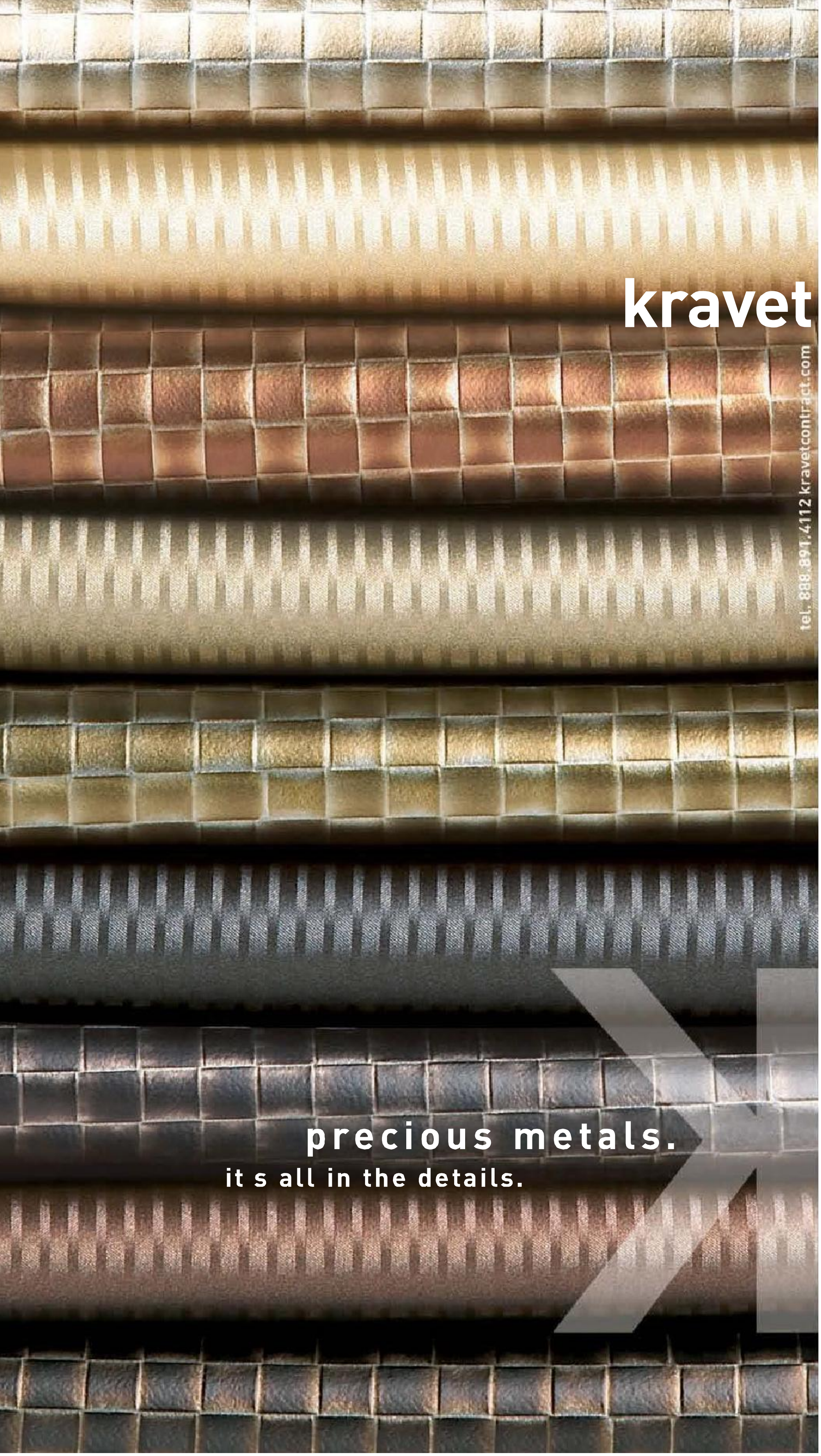
A Holiday Inn Express property goes boutique at Chicago s historic Hotel Cass.

DIGITAL EDITION

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